

at the lowest enumeration previously to their introduction, still would it be that the mortality of the city, since the introduction of quackery, has increased in a manner sufficient to demonstrate that the city has gained nothing by the pretended reformation in medicine, but has lost much. I do not say, nor do I believe, that the empirics have actually carried a sufficient number of patients through a full course of steam and No. 6, to account for the great increase of mortality; but I do say, and believe, that the war they have waged against the known and well-tried remedies of the *Materia Medica*, and the measures they have taken to destroy public confidence in the medical profession, are nearly sufficient of themselves to account for the increased mortality, without taking into the estimate those who died under their scalding treatment."

*Medicinal Properties of the Cotton Plant.*—Dr. E. F. BOUCHELLE of Columbus, Miss., states in a letter to Prof. Short of Louisville, that the cotton plant displays a particular affinity for the female sexual organs, and is capable of modifying their functions in a remarkable manner. He has exhibited it as a remedy in amenorrhea with decided benefit, five cases of which are mentioned by him, but in terms too general to be satisfactory. He seems to regard it as a specific for this form of catamenial derangement, since he expressly states that it is applicable to every case without regard to the state of the system.

But it is as an oxytocic that the article is most celebrated by Dr. Bouchelle, since in his hands it has proved itself to be nowise inferior to the *secale cornutum*. He has administered it in several cases of labour, when his hopes of a favourable issue were gloomy indeed, and in every instance he was forcibly impressed with its benignantly specific influence upon the parturient action of the uterus. He has given it *experimentally*, also, in cases of natural labour, and with equally satisfactory results. In such cases, he will allow us to suggest, the remedy maintained a strict neutrality, else it could scarcely have failed to do mischief. In natural labour, the expulsive contractions are justly proportioned, both as to intensity and frequency of recurrence, to the obstacle to be overcome, and they cannot be accelerated or strengthened without risk of injury to both mother and child. Dr. Bouchelle assures us that the cotton plant not only possesses the property of invigorating feeble contractions of the uterine fibres, but that it *originates* expulsive contraction at any period of gestation, and will induce *immediate* abortion when taken in the proper quantity.

Dr. Bouchelle avers, that the cotton plant is habitually resorted to by slaves in the South for the criminal purpose of inducing abortion, and that it is a fact long and well known in that region that two-thirds, at least, of the likeliest and youngest female slaves are either sterile or invariably miscarry when they do become pregnant, from which he infers, furthermore, that the use of the article destroys the generative capacity. He mentions as a remarkable fact, that those who resort to it either with the view of inducing abortion or of destroying the generative capacity, experience no detriment to their health therefrom.

The preparation used by Dr. Bouchelle is a decoction made by boiling four ounces of the inner bark of the root in a quart of water until it is reduced to a pint. Dose, a wine-glassful every twenty or thirty minutes as an oxytocic; he does not specify the dose, &c., in amenorrhœa.—*Western Journ. Med. and Surg.*, August, 1840.

*Congenital Fungus Hæmatodæ.*—Prof. DRAKE has recently been shown by Drs. Carpentier and Blackstone, a case of this in a female child, two days old. The disease occupies the whole of the left nates, which is swelled out into a great, shining, globoid tumour; rendered irregular by tuberos elevations. It extends from the perineum, anus and vulva to the sacrum and the spine of the ilium, so as to involve the acetabulum. Its colour is deep red. Many of the cutaneous veins are much enlarged. A portion of the skin had suffered abrasion and considerable hæmorrhage had already occurred. Some parts of the tumour are hard, others soft—the general mass felt hard. It was tender under the hand. In short it had all the diagnostic marks of encephaloid, before fungous growths

appear. The child was rather lean but seemed to be in health; and was free from tumours or malformations in any other part.—*Western Journ. Med. and Surg.*, July, 1840.

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*Stramonium in Dysmenorrhœa.*—DR. T. COGLEY, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, states, in a communication in the *Western Journal Med. and Surg.*, for November, 1840, that he has used the stramonium with more or less success, in at least six cases of amenorrhœa, and is therefore induced to regard it, as one of our most efficient remedies in that disease. The remedy is contra-indicated where there is a plethoric state of the system, and this condition must be removed by venesection and catharsis, before the stramonium is administered. Dr. C. gives the pulverised seed in such doses, as considerably to dilate the pupils. The extract would doubtless be a neater mode of administering the remedy, and if we might judge from the effects of a kindred article, the extract of belladonna, we should anticipate benefit from its use.

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*Nasal Polypus.*—DR. BRICE, of Newark, Ohio, is said to have permanently cured three cases of nasal polypus, by the application of the sanguinaria *canadensis*. He employed both the powder and the decoction of the root.—*Western Journ. Med. and Surg.*, September, 1840.

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*Library of Practical Medicine.*—The American edition of the third volume of this valuable work is completed. This volume comprises the diseases of the Organs of Respiration, by Dr. Williams; Influenza, by Dr. T. Thompson; Asphyxia, by Dr. Carpentier; Diseases of the Organs of Circulation, and Malformations of the Heart, by Dr. Joy. It is in all respects, at least equal to its predecessors.

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*Proceedings of the Connecticut Medical Society.*—This Society held its annual convention at New Haven, on the 13th of May, 1840. A dissertation “on the advantages of prompt and efficient practice in acute diseases,” was read by Dr. Richard Warren. The Society numbers 376 members.

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*College of Physicians and Surgeons at Fairfield, New York.*—We understand that this institution has been closed.

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*Albany Medical College.*—Several changes have been made in this institution during the past year. The faculty at present are as follows: Alden March, M. D., President and Professor of Surgery; James McNaughton, M. D., Prof. of the Theory and Practice of Medicine; Ebenezer Emmons, M. D., Prof. of Materia Medica and Natural History; Lewis C. Beck, M. D., Prof. of Chemistry and Therapeutics; James H. Armsby, M. D., Registrar and Prof. of Anatomy; David M. McLachlan, M. D., Prof. of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; Thomas Hun, M. D., Prof. of Institutes of Medicine; Amos Dean, Esq., Prof. of Med. Jurisprudence.

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*A Second Appeal to the People of Pennsylvania on the subject of an Asylum for the Insane Poor.*—The necessity for an institution for the Insane Poor of this state is ably and forcibly shown in this pamphlet. As a citizen of the commonwealth, we feel mortified that a second appeal in favour of a project of such manifest and pressing importance should have been required, and trust that no real or fancied considerations of *convenience* shall be allowed longer to postpone the just claims of those who are in poverty and deprived of their reason, to such alleviation as their afflictions will admit of.